



Forest School at The Ellis CE Primary School

Intent

- ☺ We believe that every child should have the chance to take part in Forest School sessions throughout their time at The Ellis and to provide regular opportunities for hands-on outdoor learning experiences.
- ☺ We aim to provide our children with a nurturing space that supports their wellbeing and enables them to appreciate the natural world around them, whilst developing a sense of awe and wonder and a love of the outdoors.
- ☺ We aim to develop their knowledge of nature and the natural environment, whilst also instilling a sense of responsibility for caring for our world.
- ☺ We aim to teach the children specific skills in tying knots; building shelters; use of various tools; cooking campfire food and fire-lighting.
- ☺ We aim to provide all children with high quality teaching and learning opportunities which ensures progression of skills and follows a sequence to build on previous learning.
- ☺ We aim for children to learn to identify, manage and deal with risks safely.
- ☺ We aim to help children develop an understanding how to manage feelings and to deal with failure as well as how to celebrate successes.
- ☺ Our children will develop their confidence and self-esteem, whilst developing self-awareness, self-regulation, motivation, empathy and other social skills which are needed to enable them to grow into well-adjusted adults.
- ☺ Our children will learn to work effectively as part of a team as well as developing the ability to problem solve, think creatively, help others, share ideas and lead their own learning, skills which can be transferred to other curriculum subjects and life beyond school.



Implementation

At The Ellis, we firmly believe that learning should extend beyond the classroom setting and that regular outdoor learning experiences are highly valuable. Discrete Forest School sessions are taught by Level 3 Forest School leaders in KS1 and KS2 and will be timetabled for two half terms per academic year. This will be in addition to separate outdoor learning the children will engage in with their class teachers. Foundation Stage staff access the Forest School site throughout the year to support their delivery of the Early Years Curriculum. Child-led learning is at the heart of all Forest School sessions, however we also follow a long term plan which teaches key skills in responsible use of tools, fire-lighting, cooking, tying knots and building shelters and ensures clear progression throughout. Play and exploration are key and the Forest Schools approach is centred on small, achievable tasks which allow success for all.

Foundation Stage

Children are provided with the opportunities to:

- ☺ Explore the sounds and sights of our Forest School site.
- ☺ Recognise and talk about seasonal changes which occur throughout the year.
- ☺ Gain confidence in moving around our site, transporting logs and other natural materials safely.
- ☺ Begin identifying the parts of plants and trees, as well as naming a number minibeasts.
- ☺ Sit around the fire circle listening to stories and singing songs.
- ☺ Learn basic fire safety rules and experience sitting around a lit campfire.
- ☺ Recite and understand the three Forest School rules.





KS1

Children are provided with the opportunities to:



- 🕒 Build dens and shelters out of natural materials.
- 🕒 Tie a basic clove hitch knot.
- 🕒 Understand basic whittling skills.
- 🕒 Understand basic fire safety rules.
- 🕒 Enjoy sitting round a lit fire, toasting marshmallows and making popcorn.
- 🕒 Create different woodland activities such as building a Little People Village; minibeast hunts; creating a bug hotel; making leaf and stick people and climbing trees.
- 🕒 Simple team building games.
- 🕒 Recite, understand and explore the 3 Forest School rules and begin to identify and manage risks, with some support, in the Forest School area.



KS2

Children are provided with the opportunities to:



- 🕒 Build different shelters using tarpaulins and ropes.
- 🕒 Tie an increasing number of knots.
- 🕒 Learn how to whittle to create woodland crafts and ornaments.
- 🕒 Use a number of tools safely and appropriately.
- 🕒 Learn about the fire triangle and how to safely site, light, maintain and extinguish a fire.
- 🕒 Cook some basic food on a campfire and boil water in a Kelly kettle.
- 🕒 Create different woodland activities such as making picture frames, woodland paintbrushes and natural art; tree decorations; weaving; musical instruments and making nests.
- 🕒 A number of team building games.
- 🕒 Identify and manage risks in the Forest School area and assist with the maintenance of the site.

Impact

- ☺ Children will show enthusiasm, passion, curiosity and sense of awe for the world around them.
- ☺ Children value our Forest School site and take responsibility for caring for it.
- ☺ Children are able to recognise and take risks in a safe and responsible way.
- ☺ Children will leave The Ellis equipped with a range of skills to enable them to safely use tools, light campfires, build shelters, tie a range of knots and cook basic food which they can use in later life.
- ☺ The Forest School curriculum will contribute to children's personal development in problem solving, creative thinking, sharing ideas, increased independence, self-confidence, self-awareness, patience, resilience, motivation, and empathy and they are able to use these skills in all areas of school and beyond.
- ☺ Children are able to deal with their emotions in an appropriate way, showing self-regulation and an understanding of others and have developed ways of maintaining positive mental health and well-being.
- ☺ Progress will be evident through the outcomes.
- ☺ Children will have the vocabulary to be able to talk about the skills they are learning and be able to explain their thinking effectively.
- ☺ Children (including those with SEND) will be able to access learning appropriate to their personal next steps.

